

Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, Food & Water Watch, Land Stewardship Project, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, National Family Farm Coalition, Organization of Competitive Markets, Ranchers Cattlemen Action Legal Fund – United Stockgrowers of America, Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA, Western Organization of Resource Councils

Our organizations are promoting interrelated reforms to restore competitive livestock markets and fair contracts based on a platform supported by over 200 organizations that represent independent farmers and ranchers, contract growers, and consumers (available at <http://tinyurl.com/3gcty2>).

Agricultural Competition Issue Brief 8 of 18: Finalize Pending Contract Disclosure and Contract Standards Regulations

Obama-Biden Position: " Prevent Anticompetitive Behavior Against Family Farms... strengthen anti-monopoly laws; change federal agriculture policy to strengthen producer protection from fraud, abuse and market manipulation...."

Relevant Program: Packers and Stockyards Act

Relevant Agency: USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Policy Recommendation – Administration Action: The regulations should be revised and finalized.

Background: On August 1, 2007 [72 Federal Register 41952-56], GIPSA published a package of proposed poultry regulations to give growers greater information about contract terms before they make related investments, and to require companies to give growers greater notice before cancellation. On February 11, 2008 [73 Federal Register Page 7686-7690], GIPSA published another set of proposed regulations, this time to address the weighing of poultry, livestock, swine and feed.